



CITY COUNCIL

Finance Committee

Meeting Report Monday, July 6, 2009

Committee Members Attending: J. Waltman, M. Baez, S. Fuhs

Others Attending: D. Cituk, R. Hottenstein, M. Loaiza

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Waltman, Chair, at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Update: 2008 External Audit Review

Mr. Cituk stated that Herbein & Co. will be presenting the draft External Audit Report on July 20th, before Council's Regular Meeting at 5 pm. The formal presentation of the final audit will occur on July 27th.

Review Fee Ordinances - Codes, Planning, Parks - Rec, and Zoning

Mr. Hottenstein distributed a hand out on the proposed fee increases. He added that Exhibit A, Tab 3, citing the fees for housing permits still needs further clarification.

Councilor Fuhs stated that the current annual fees are high. Mr. Hottenstein noted that this area needs further clarification. He added that if the fees were yearly then certain areas should be divided by five (5) because the City normally does inspections every five (5) years. He stated they are currently working to determine the breakout of the housing permit fee.

Councilor Waltman stated that he repeatedly questioned the housing permit fee and the inclusion of annual inspection fees previously. He expressed that a drilled down breakdown would be very helpful.

Mr. Hottenstein noted that Community Development planning fees significantly increased and discussions are impeding the ability to implement them.

Councilor Fuhs asked if the fees are based on square footage.

Mr. Cituk questioned what current collection rate in Planning. Mr. Hottenstein stated that there is a breakdown in the Maximus Report showing that information

Councilor Waltman asked if we will make the approximate \$1 million that is appropriated in the budget. Mr. Hottenstein replied affirmatively.

Mr. Hottenstein brought the Committee's attention to the handout distributed earlier including the new fee from Public Works. He stated that Public Works is concerned that some of the suggested Maximus fees would deter the rental use of locales such as the small pavilion, which Maximus listed with a \$100 rental fee. Mr. Hottenstein stated that he discussed these increases with Public Works, Councilor Waltman stated that we should promote the use of these facilities, not deter from their use. He noted that Public Works concerns should weigh heavily on the fee adjustments.

Councilor Fuhs inquired what the uses are for such facilities. Mr. Hottenstein replied that uses include parties, gatherings and things of that nature.

Councilor Waltman questioned the condition of these facilities.

Councilor Fuhs noted that we should promote the use of these facilities.

Mr. Hottenstein asked the body if they agree to support Public Works decision on the fees. The body agreed.

Blue Ribbon Panel Update

Mr. Hottenstein stated that the panel was broken up into two (2) groups. These two (2) groups will present their reports at a meeting with the Mayor and Council on Wednesday, July 22 at 10 am in the Penn Room.

2010 Budget Preparation & Strategy Update

Mr. Hottenstein inquired if the body had any questions in regards to the 2010 budget preparation and strategy update. Councilor Waltman replied that there are no new questions at this time.

Act 47

Councilor Fuhs asked if the budget deficit remains at \$14 million. Mr. Hottenstein noted that the budget deficit is predicted to be \$14 - \$18 million.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of Act 47. Councilor Fuhs suggested that Council become more educated on Act 47.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Maritza Loaiza, Administrative Assistant to City Clerk

FOLLOW-UP ISSUES

- Recommendation for contract award for independent contractor to undertake collection activities as required by Resolution 131-2008 – first report from contractor due June 1st.
- Report – Blue Ribbon Panel meeting & panel focus areas
- Update on Utility Billing issues & hiring Utility Billing Manager
- Maximus Fee Recommendations
 - Public Works input on Park & Rec fee increases
 - Breakout of Housing Permit and other Codes Fees
- Report residual CDBG funds
- Education on Act 47
- Discussion on 2010 Budget Plan